

6-5-1949

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, June 3-7, 1949

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[redacted] Hattiesburg, Miss

June 3 1949

Hon. John C. Stennis
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Stennis:

As committee chairman in the matter of Anti-Poll-tax legislation I hope you can get the bill moving so that action can be taken on it.

The amount of the tax in Mississippi can not affect us too much either way. It seems it is more of a nuisance than a case of discrimination but in either category we seven or eight states that have it could do no more undemocratic thing than filibuster over it. If filibustering is to continue to be a practice may it soon be a tool of others besides Southerners and Democrats.

JUN 6 1949

Sincerely,

Mrs. [redacted]

C

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32 Poll tax

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

June 7, 1949

Mrs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]:

This will acknowledge with thanks your letter of June 3rd in regard to the various anti-poll tax bills which have been introduced in the Senate.

I am opposed to any legislation repealing the poll tax system at the Federal level because I believe that regulations of elections were Constitutionally vested in the various individual states and that the states themselves should make the decisions as to qualification of electors. If Congress takes any action on the anti-poll tax proposal, I believe that its only course should be through the form of Constitutional amendments, for I believe that action by mere legislation would be an infringement upon our established Constitutional provisions in this field.

With best wishes and kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

U. S. Senator

FES:eh